

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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RESOLUTION R7-2020-0030



I, PAULA RASMUSSEN, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on December 10, 2020.

PAULA RASMUSSEN
Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

RESOLUTION R7-2020-0030

ADOPTING THE 2020 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY
CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) finds that:

1. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) was adopted on August 3, 1994 and has since been amended periodically.
2. The Basin Plan contains the region's water quality standards set forth by Colorado River Basin Water Board, which consist of beneficial uses and water quality objectives to protect those uses. The Basin Plan also contains implementation programs that enact the water quality standards, statewide plans and policies applicable to the region's waters, descriptions of water quality monitoring and surveillance, and non-regulatory descriptions of the region.
3. Federal and state laws mandate the periodic review of water quality control plans. Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that water quality standards be reviewed and revised, if necessary, at a minimum every three years. Similarly, section 13240 of the Water Code requires periodic review of regional water quality control plans. The process designed to comply with these laws is known as the "Triennial Review."
4. The primary purpose of the Triennial Review is to review water quality standards in the Basin Plan to ensure they are based on current science, methodologies, and USEPA directives, recommendations, and guidance, as well as to take public comment on issues the Colorado River Basin Water Board should address in the future through the Basin Plan Amendment process.
5. The Triennial Review process is cyclical, meaning that at the end of one three-year review period, the review process begins again with the next three-year period. In this sense, the review process is on-going, reflecting the continuing planning process adhered to by the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Boards. The process does not necessarily involve the revision of all or any particular component of the water quality standards every three years. Identification of an issue during a Triennial Review does not necessarily mean that any Basin Plan Amendment will be made over the course of the three-year review cycle.
6. The decision whether to proceed with a proposed Basin Plan Amendment is only made after the Colorado River Basin Water Board reviews the associated technical and legal considerations and determines that development of the

Basin Plan Amendment is supported by evidence and appropriate. Federal or state law may preclude changes that might otherwise be deemed desirable by stakeholders. Even where changes are appropriate and lawful, the state's continuing planning process recognizes that modifying water quality standards is resource intensive and typically limited by staffing and budgetary constraints. As such, the Triennial Review process assists in identifying the most important or compelling projects and allows the states to prioritize those as resources allow.

7. On April 7, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board solicited public comments and project recommendations for the 2020 Triennial Review during a public comment period that extended from April 7, 2020 through May 27, 2020. The public comments and project recommendations were used to develop a draft prioritized list of projects (Triennial Review List).
8. On September 25, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board circulated for public review the draft Triennial Review List and a draft Staff Report explaining the projects. The public had an opportunity to review and comment on these documents during a 30-day period from September 25, 2020 through October 24, 2020.
9. On October 8, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board held a public workshop to provide information on the draft Triennial Review List, to inform the public of the review process and to encourage public participation.
10. On November 19, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board published on its website and notified interested parties of the availability of an updated draft Triennial Review List and Staff Report, revised in response to public comments.
11. The Colorado River Basin Water Board held a public hearing on December 10, 2020, online over live webcast, to receive public comments on the proposed Triennial Review List.
12. All known interested persons were notified of the opportunities for public comment, public workshop, document availability, and public hearing, consistent with state and federal regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1) and Water Code section 13240, the Colorado River Basin Water Board hereby adopts the Triennial Review List, as set forth in **Attachment 1** to this Resolution, and certifies completion of the 2020 Triennial Review. Additional detail concerning each project is set forth in the accompanying Staff Report.
2. The Colorado River Basin Water Board reaffirms its intent to address the priority projects identified during the Triennial Review process as described in the Triennial Review List, to the extent resources allow.

3. The areas of the Basin Plan not identified as needing investigation and possible revisions are hereby affirmed as adequate; however, this determination does not preclude the consideration of other issues for possible revision or amendment of the Basin Plan.
4. The entire Basin Plan shall remain in effect until such time that appropriate and specific amendments on priority issues are adopted by the Colorado River Basin Water Board and approved by the appropriate reviewing agencies.

Attachment 1: 2020 Triennial Review List

No.	Project Title	Rank
1	Salton Sea Watershed, Imperial Valley Organochlorine Compounds and Organophosphate Pesticides Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)	1
2	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Organochlorine Compounds TMDL Alternatives	1
3	Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride, Indicator Bacteria, and Toxicity TMDLs	2
4	Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia, Nutrients, and Toxicity TMDLs	2
5	Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs	2
6	Yucca Valley Septic System Prohibition Revision	2
7	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, and Toxicity TMDLs	3
8	Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs	3
9	Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality	3
10	Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review	4
11	Regionwide Indicator Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment	4
12	Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin	4
13	Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs	4
14	Colorado River Toxicity TMDL	5
15	Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives	6
16	Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL	6
17	Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats	7
18	Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL	7
19	Adopt Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) as Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Objectives for the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use	7
20	Adopt Regionwide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria	7
21	Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL	7
22	Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL	7
23	Salton Sea Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethylene (DDE) TMDLs	7
24	Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer	7
25	Incorporate Tribal Beneficial Use Definitions and Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies	8
26	Administrative Update to the Basin Plan	8
27	Imperial Valley Drains Toxicity TMDL	8
28	List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed Waterbodies	8
29	General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality	9